



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



December 10, 2018

Good afternoon.

During my office hours last week at Africana Studies, I heard a remarkable story from a student about having the courage to create a conversation about acceptance and impact as a result of knowledge and skills learned in a couple of her classes. The student engaged a stranger whom she had overheard making racially biased comments. Both of their lives have been changed for the better by the interaction. The story led me to once again realize the impact of our students' experiences inside and outside of the classroom and the importance of being able to respectfully discuss difficult issues with others. Every day at UNM our students learn lessons that are avenues through which they can connect to their communities and the wider world. Such important teachings underscore the value of a UNM degree.

Class of 2018 Fall Commencement Ceremony

This fall, we are adding more than 1,990 new graduates to our alumni rosters - including 1,260 bachelors, 344 masters, and 67 PhDs. Our students' dedication to their studies and devotion to higher learning is admirable, and I extend personal congratulations to each member of the [Class of 2018](#). Graduation is the first step towards a lifetime of learning, and I wish the best for each of you on your future path. Please join me in honoring our graduates at the [Fall 2018 Commencement Ceremonies on Friday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. in Dreamstyle Arena](#). The ceremony will also be livestreamed on the [UNM Facebook page](#) and [LoboGrad website](#). This year we are fortunate to have Judith Nakamura, UNM Bachelor of Arts undergraduate, UNM Law School graduate and Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court, as our keynote speaker.

Honorary Degree Nominations

Part of each commencement ceremony is recognizing our honorary degree recipients - those who have contributed to the cultural or scientific development of the Southwest, or to the spiritual or material welfare of its people. The [Office of the Secretary is accepting nominations](#) to be considered for announcement at the Spring 2019 Commencement. A successful candidate must have an exemplary record of academic or public accomplishment in keeping with the University's standards of rigor, quality and significance. Please send nominations to the Office of the Secretary no later than Monday, Dec. 17, 2018.

STEM Boomerang

As part of the University for New Mexico, it is our duty to support ongoing and innovative research in all fields, including science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). As part of that commitment, I will be giving the welcome address [to kick off the second annual STEM Boomerang at UNM](#). The conference brings together business, academic, economic development and government leaders from the city, state and region. Through these essential partnerships, I'm optimistic that we can combat 'brain drain' in our state, encourage STEM professionals to stay in New Mexico, and help them find the jobs to make that a reality.

UNM Gives Campaign - Making a Difference in Our Community

I recognize that each of you give back to our community every day, simply by being employees of this public institution. Many of you also give to programs you feel passionate about by [donating your time, skills or money](#). Giving through payroll deduction to the annual UNM Gives Campaign - through our partnership with the United Way of Central New Mexico and the UNM Foundation - makes that easier.

Payroll deduction of one dollar a week or \$52/year to the campaign can make an enormous difference in the lives of those who really need help:

- Duffel bags for two children in foster care, who will never again store their belongings in a trash bag
- A week of groceries for 7 hungry seniors
- A package of socks for 87 students
- Ten hours of 24/7 crisis hotline

Please consider making your pledge at unmgives.unm.edu before Dec. 20, when the annual campaign ends. If each of us make a small donation, we can collectively have an enormous impact in our community.

Have a happy holiday season, and let's go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes
President

Feel free to reach out to me at presidentstokes@unm.edu.
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